

July 19, 2021
Unofficial Minutes
Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 am Steve Reinhardt made the motion to open the meeting of July 19, 2021. Duke Strobel approved. Daron Woelk was absent. Others present for the meeting were: Administrator John Fletcher, Treasurer Trisha Strobel, Emergency Manager Keith Haberer, GIS Director Chris Brown, and Clerk Mary Nuss.

Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting. Duke Strobel approved.

Alan Kuntzsch, Public Works Director, updated the Commission on road projects in the County. Discussion was held regarding the condition of the Paradise blacktop and options to fix it. No decisions were made at this time. Patching is ongoing on 176th St. South on Gorham Blacktop to Lincoln Rd and then the Balta/Galatia Rd South to the County Line. On July 8, 2021 the Landfill had a Compliance Assistance Visit with the KDHE.

At 9:41 am Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel for employee evaluations with Alan Kuntzsch and John Fletcher in attendance. Steve Reinhardt approved. At 9:46 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Keith Haberer, Emergency Manager, updated the Commission on Incident Management Teams meetings. Discussion was held about setting up NIMS classes for new Department heads and employees.

Mike Parsons, Economic Development Director, presented a Resolution for Rural Opportunity Zone for Russell County to continue in this Program. The ROZ Program allows businesses in Russell County to hire people and offer them assistance in their student loan repayments when they take job and move to Russell County. Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-13 approving the County's participation in the ROZ program. Duke Strobel approved.

Chris Brown, GIS Director, explained a change to the zoning regulations on Commercial/Utility Solar Language. Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve the language regarding Commercial/Utility Solar System Projects, that the buffer around any wetlands, scenic or natural areas change from quarter mile to 50 feet. Duke Strobel approved.

Margaret Grismer, Interim CEO of Russell Regional Hospital came in to introduce the new CEO David Caudill.

John Fletcher, Administrator and Administrative Assistant Connie Schinkus met with the representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the employee's health insurance plan. It has

decreased by 3.23% for a savings of \$33,015.84 for the year. The Plan and costs will remain the same for the employees. To date, Freedom Claims Management, has saved the County \$223,000.00.

Steve Reinhardt made the motion to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan. Duke Strobel approved.

At 11:00 am Steve Reinhardt made the motion to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with John Fletcher in attendance. Duke Strobel approved. At 11:10 am the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Paula Bitter, County Health Nurse, informed the Commission that Russell County COVID cases are at 5. 2 of them are under the age of 11. We have had breakthrough cases, where they had the vaccine but ended up getting a variant of COVID. 32% of Russell County is vaccinated.

Checks were signed and approved to be deducted from the following funds:

100	GENERAL	\$	30,424.05	260	HEALTH	\$	1,728.10
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$	14,178.94	300	LUCAS FIRE	\$	33.83
120	SPECIAL BRIDGE	\$	654.04	310	WAL-PAR-NAT	\$	80.00
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$	16,364.43	320	DORRANCE FIRE	\$	35.17
140	4H	\$	134.73	328	RS CO FIRE #5	\$	368.94
150	CVB	\$	2,427.59	330	APPRAISAL	\$	959.09
155	ED	\$	456.10	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$	358.50
170	SP. MACHINERY	\$	5,850.00	360	SOLID WASTE	\$	2,633.95
190	AMBULANCE	\$	4,657.62	380	EM TELEPHONE	\$	106.41

At 11:56 am Duke Strobel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Reinhardt approved. The next meeting will be August 2, 2021 beginning at 9:00 am in Commission Chambers, Courthouse.